

them in their good opinion of themselves. Considering what has already taken place and the grave issues with regard to the discipline and morale of the Army at large, the news of a fresh disaster will raise, it is to be wished that the Command-in-Chief of the troops in India will not at this moment, an office to be changed before the season advances is much to be desired. Our whole scheme of frontier warfare must be so revised to meet the altered conditions which the armament and unimpaired courage of the African have forced upon us, and there is no man better qualified than Sir William Lockhart for the task of reconstituting the Staff and Command as well as the Transport and Commissariat of the Mobilized Army.

The Standard demands a full enquiry into the conduct of the frontier campaign, including the manner in which General Lockhart was evidently hampered in his operations from Simla.

The Daily News protests against the continuance of hostilities with the Afghans.

The following were also wounded in the attack on the Fourth Brigade—Captain Mayrath, of the Yorkshire Regiment, Sergeant Captain Dickson, of the 1st Buffs, and 30th Sikhs. In spite of the heavy fire our retreat was not confused. The officers and men behaved splendidly. The enemy's loss must have been very heavy, but we were only within thirty yards of our objective.

Colonel Houghton's body has been brought in, and search parties are out for the remainder. Lieutenant Van Soeren, of the 4th Sikhs, brought the regiment out of action and distinguished himself greatly. He had two bullets through his clothes.

General Sir W. Lockhart, interviewed at Calcutta expressed the opinion that a spring campaign would be necessary, as it is doubtful if the Afghans will submit during the winter. He believes that the enemy will surrender on a fresh advance as severe frost has been meted and the country terribly devastated. He envisaged the gallantry of the British and native troops, and stated that the Para Valley was the hardest fighting ground he had ever met. One reason for this was that the nature of the difficulties of the campaign. The principal damage had been inflicted by a few of the enemy's guns, which had been fired from a few eminences following and firing from the inaccessible cliffs with Lee-Notters. Sir William denied the rumors that he had been condemned as incompetent. He thought the enormous difficulty of the African country never had been properly understood.

Sir W. Lockhart has sent in his despatches and will sail from Bombay on the 5th instant.

The Times depicts exaggerated talk of the Mammal War and a sinking of party capital out of the British review.

Rome, 2nd February.
General Westmoreland writes from Manila that he has secured the capture of three who were killed in the fight where Colonel Houghton was killed.

THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.
Bombay, 30th January.
During the forty-eight hours ending this morning there have been reported 225 cases of Plague and 27 deaths. Deaths from all causes numbered 562.

Detachments of the Shanghai Light Infantry, fully armed, and called out of duty in the active town to support plague search parties.

(Via Australia).
THE LIBERATOR FRANKS: RELEASE OF HONOR.
London, 17th January.
J. W. Hobbs, the builder who was concerned with James Balfour in the Liberator Franks, and convicted in 1893 of forgery and other crimes, who Mr. J. W. Hobbs sentenced him to twelve years imprisonment, has now been released from gaol by order of the Home Secretary, owing to the state of his health.

THE SUGAR HONORABLE.
London, 17th January.
The Belgian Government has issued invitations to the Great Powers of Europe to send delegates to a conference for the discussion of the abolition of the sugar duties on the production of beetroot sugar.

THE FISH FOR KIDNEY.
London, 17th January.
Letters from New York indicate that an enormous run in the kidneys of goldfish is imminent. Some idea of the demand for fish to be sent to New York will be gained from the fact that five Atlantic Companies have booked no fewer than 45,000 passengers, while two of the Pacific Steamship Companies have been called upon to provide passages for 25,000 persons. Scores of sailing-ships have started for Kidney, via Cape Horn.

THE FISH FOR KIDNEY.
London, 17th January.
The Times asserts that all the Powers interested acknowledge the basis of negotiations submitted by Lord Salisbury for the loan to China to be statebank and in perfect harmony with the best traditions of British policy.

BRITISH TRADE INTERESTS.
The Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the course of a speech delivered yesterday, stated that Great Britain regarded China as the most hopeful place for the future development of commerce.

THE SOUPAN ADVANCE: A CAUTIOUS ADVANCE.
London, 18th January.
The London Standard of today states that no immediate attack will be made by the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., in the course of a speech delivered yesterday, stated that Great Britain regarded China as the most hopeful place for the future development of commerce.

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THE BERLIN PRESS OF BRITAIN'S LOAN NEGOTIATIONS.
London, 19th January.
Several leading newspapers in Berlin contend that the opening of talks between Britain and Germany in the matter of a loan to Germany would involve an infringement of Russian and French rights. These journals also hint that Germany will continue to co-operate with Russia and France in the Far East. Germany is said to be urging Austria and Italy to follow the example of the other Powers by sending men-of-war to China.

AMERICA APPROVES BRITISH POLICY.
London, 20th January.
The United States newspapers generally support Great Britain's policy in the Far East as announced by Sir Edward Hicks-Beach, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, who recently stated that the British Government was absolutely determined, even at the cost of war, to prevent the doors of China being closed by any Power against England's commerce.

RUSSIA AT PORT ARTHUR.
London, 20th January.
The Russian warships at Port Arthur are, it is announced, to be reinforced by the armored battleship *Sissoi Veliky*, 8,000 tons.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN THE FAR EAST.
London, 20th January.
It is stated that Russia is in the process of equipping the entire Chinese province of Manchuria.

SHIPPING REPORTS.
H.M.S. *Hunter*, from Tientsin 11th Feb. had light N.E. breeze.
The British steamer *Haites*, from Swatow 15th Feb., had light wind from N. to N.W. and heavy calm weather.

The British steamer *Kalgan*, from Saigon 11th Feb., had strong monsoon and high sea; Cape Yarelli; then light variable and smooth to port.

The British steamer *Arcton*, from Calcutta 29th Jan., Ponnang 5th Feb., and Singapore 7th, experienced strong monsoon with high sea, as far as the Ponnang, after which had light breeze and smooth sea to port.

The British steamer *Wahia*, from Saigon 12th Feb., had strong monsoon with high sea and clear weather from Cape St. James to Cape Peloton. From Cape Peloton to Ponnang moderate N.E. wind and clear weather; thence to port light variable wind, smooth sea and fine cloudy weather.

The steamer *Trene*, from Meili 10th Feb., experienced strong N.W. wind with heavy sea. The wind kept on increasing in strength until noon on the 11th, when it developed into a terrific storm, accompanied by heavy snow and hail, falling at 10 p.m. The engine had to be reduced to half-speed, and this order was maintained till 8 a.m. on the 12th. The storm raged, which had been met, were badly damaged. During the gale the ship rolled and heeled heavily, taking on board tremendous seas so that most of the deck fittings were destroyed. The gale reached its highest point between 3.25 N. 129 E. and 3.13 N. and 129 E. Capt. Schuler says he never before experienced such terrific weather in this part of the Japanese sea. The *Trene* behaved wonderfully well, and proved herself an excellent craft. The gale moderated at 10 a.m. on the 12th.

VESSLS PASSED ANKER.
Jan. 25 British str. *Paras*, Cal. from London for Batavia.
29 British str. *Orissa*, Wood, from Australia for Hongkong.

Feb. 1, Dutch str. *Princess Sophia*, Soomer, from Amsterdam for Batavia.
2, Dutch str. *Arjona*, Le Clercq, Feb. 2, from Batavia for Rotterdam.

BANK HOLIDAYS.
THE UNDERMENTIONED BANKS will be CLOSED for the Transference of Public Business at 11.45 A.M. TO-DAY (THURSDAY), the 17th instant.

For the CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.
T. H. WHITEHEAD, Manager, Hongkong.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.

For the NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.
GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR, Chief Manager.

For the MERCHANTS BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.
JOHN THURBURN, Manager, Hongkong.

For the BANQUE DE L'INDO-CHINE.
J. C. E. AUGUSTIN, Manager.

For the BANK OF CHINA AND JAPAN, LIMITED.
E. L. HUNTER, Manager.

For the YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.
S. CHOW, Manager.

INSURANCE HOLIDAYS.
HONGKONG RACES.
THE UNDERMENTIONED RACES OFFICE will be CLOSED for the Transference of Public Business at 11.45 A.M. TO-DAY (THURSDAY), the 17th instant.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., General Agents.
CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, Ltd. General Managers.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., Ltd. N. J. BIDE, Secretary.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANADA, Ltd. W. H. PERCIVAL, Agent.

NORTH CHINA INSURANCE CO., Ltd. W. H. RAY, Secretary.

OHIO TRADING INSURANCE CO., Ltd. SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., Agents.

FOREIGN INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, Ltd. J. B. COUGHTRE, Secretary.

WATER FIRE INSURANCE CO., Ltd. W. H. D. DAVIS, Manager.

THE STRAITS INSURANCE CO., Ltd. Hongkong, 8th February, 1898.

COLLIERIES EXPLOSION IN RUSSIA.
A colliery explosion occurred at Taganrog, a Russian port on the Sea of Azov. Forty miners were killed.

DEATH OF PATTIS HUSBAND.
The death of Madame Adeline Patti, the famous singer.

INTERESTING SPEECH BY MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
The annual dinner of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce was held last night. Mr. Chamberlain, in his speech, called attention to the fact that during the last few years trade had been improved and much enriched British enterprise. In 13 years Germany had increased the area of its Empire sixfold and France fourfold, while Britain's extension had been but one-third. In his opinion Britain had lost the best of the world in Europe. A clear union between the Colonies and the mother country was essential. Britain was prepared to meet this. The news half way. The country did not require the assurance of immediate pecuniary gain, for it looked for the future reward which would transform the present "splendid isolation" into a British alliance. He hoped that the conference which was about to be held in Belgium to consider the question of the abolition of the sugar duties would be successful. If, however, the conference failed to arrange a compromise, the Government would have to consider the question of countervailing duties, which involved serious treaty questions and interfered with trade. The Government had decided to give in the meanwhile a very large grant to the British West Indies to meet the crisis until the European powers recognized the impolicy of the existing system.

ANARCHISM IN PARIS.
Yesterday the notorious Anarchist, Etienne, was arrested for the purpose of being tried, in which he fired some shots.

BANKS.
THE MERCHANTS BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.
AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, £1,500,000.
RESERVE FUND, £1,125,000.
PAID UP, £1,125,000.
RESERVE FUND, £1,125,000.
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED.
INTEREST allowed on Current Accounts at the rate of 2% per annum on the Daily balance.
ON FIXED DEPOSITS—
For 12 months, 4%
" 6 " 3%
" 3 " 2%
" 1 " 1%
Hongkong, 27th October, 1897.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.
HEAD OFFICE, LONDON.
CAPITAL PAID UP, £1,000,000.
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS, £200,000.
RESERVE FUND, £175,000.
INTEREST allowed on Current Accounts at the rate of 2% per annum on the Daily balance.
On Fixed Deposits for 12 months, 4%
" 6 " 3%
" 3 " 2%
" 1 " 1%
Hongkong, 3rd June, 1897.

HONGKONG SAVING BANK.
BUSINESS of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.
INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3% per Cent per annum.
Depositors may transfer at their option balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, or to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, or to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 1st August, 1895.

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RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS, £200,000.
RESERVE FUND, £175,000.
INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3% per Cent per annum.
Depositors may transfer at their option balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, or to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, or to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 1st August, 1895.

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